

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 NRC-05 /131 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5942

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: FIRST INFORMAL MEETING WITH EXPERTS ON NEW MASS

DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, MARCH 14,1977

1. SUMMARY: AT INITIAL MEETING ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION
WEAPONS (MDW) SOVIET EXPERT EXPLICITLY EXCLUDED NUCLEAR,
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS FROM NEW MDW, BUT
THEN WENT ON TO INCLUDE SOME ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
HE ALSO SET FORTH FIVE CATEGORIES OF TYPES OF PHYSICAL
SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ONE CLASS OF DELIVERY SYSTEMS, PROPOSED
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FOR INCLUSION IN NEW MDW. BRITISH EXPERT MADE EXTENSIVE
STATEMENT SAYING THAT NO GENERAL DEFINITION OF NEW MDW
POSSIBLE, AND THEN SUGGESTED GENERAL DEFINITION. US EXPERT,
IN SHORT REMARKS, POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET EXPERT HAD
EXCLUDED CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS FROM CATEGORY
OF NEW MDW. NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE DID SAME. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 14 CCD STATRED ITS THIRD ROUND (ROUNDS ONE AND TWO WERE HELD DURING 1976 SPRING AND SUMMER SESSIONS) OF INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW) WITH ALTERNATE POLISH REP (OLSZOWKA) IN CHAIR. SOVIET REP (LIKHATCHEV) OVEPNED DISCUSSION BY EMPHASIZING THE GREAT IMPORTANCE SOVIET UNION PLACES ON QUESTION OF MDW. HE STATED THAT UNLESS MDW IS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL IT COULD RESULT IN ARMS RECE BEING CHANNELED INTO NEW DIRECTION. SOVIET REP NOTED THAT THE UNGA HAD OVERCOME "INERTIA IN THINKING" REGARDING MDW AND HAD RECOGNIZED NEED FOR TAKING A SOBER LOOK AT PROBLEM OF WEAPONS WHICH "QUALITATIVELY" INVOLVE NEW PRINCIPLES. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TIME HAS COME TO MOVE AWAY FROM GENERAL DISCUSSION TO MORE CONCRETE CONSIDERATION IF ISSUE, PERHAPS STARTING WITH SCOPE OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT. SOVIET REP INTRODUCED HIS EXPERTS ON MDW, REGRETTING ABSENCE OF PRINCIPAL EXPERT, ACADEMICIAN FOKIN, DUE TO ILLNESS. (INDIVIDUAL SOVIET PERSONS SEPARATELY OFFERED THREE DIFFERENT REASONS TO US PERSONNEL: A. FOKIN IS ILL FROM FLU ACQUIRED IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY; B. FOKIN HAD COLLAPSED JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA UPON LEARNING OF THE SUDDEN DEATH OF A COLLEAGUE, AND C. FOKIN IS IN HOSPITAL WITH A HEART ATTACK.

3. SOVIET EXPERT (COL. SOURIKOV) RECALLED 1976 CCD DISCUSSIONS OF MDW AND NOTED THAT CERTAIN AREAS OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES CONTAIN THE SEEDS OF NEW TYPES OF MDW OTHER THAN NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. SOVIET EXPERT CITED FIVE EXAMPLES WHERE THERE APPEARS TO BE A TECHNICAL BASIS FOR DEVELOPING NEW TYPES OR SYSTEMS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A. (INFRA SOUND - GENERATION OF ACOUSTIC VIBRATIONS IN CERTAIN FREQUENCY RANGES (7 HERTZ WAS MENTIONED AS HAVING BEEN USED IN FRENCH EXPERIMENTS).

B. ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION - INCLUDING MICROWAVE RADIATION. SEE PARA 5, BELOW

C. NUCLEAR WEAPONS USING NEW FISSIONABLE ELEMENTS WITH ATOMIC WEIGHTS HIGHER THAN URANIUM 235 OR PLUTONIUM 239. SEE PARA 6, BELOW.

D. AEROSPACE VEHICLES COMBINING CHARACTERISTICS OF SPACECRAFT AND AIRCRAFT, SPACE SHUTTLE AS CURRENT EXAMPLE. SEE PARA 7, BELOW.

E. FUEL/AIR EXPLOSIVES - SEE PARA 8, BELOW.

4. FURTHER ON INFRA SOUND. SOURIKOV SAID POWERFUL, LOW-FREQUENCY SOUND FIELDS COULD CAUSE PSYCHOTROPIC EFFECTS, DISORIENTATION, EVEN DEATH; LEVELS OF ABOUT 140 DB CAUSING LOSS OF ORIENTATION; LEVELS OF ABOUT 150 DB CAUSING

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SPASMS OF THROAT AND BREATHING DISORDERS. HE CLAIMED
"EVIDENCE" THAT SOMEWHERE WORK IS GOING ON TO DEVELOP
SONIC WEAPON BASED ON A JET ENGINE INSTALLED IN A TUNNEL
WHICH, SET OFF BY REMOTE CONTROL, COULD KILL PEOPLE AND KNOCK
DOWN BUILDINGS WITHIN RADIUS OF 20 MILES. HE SAID POTENTIAL
FOR INFRA-SOUND WEAPONS WAS BEING MOVED FORWARD BY MILITARY
DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS OF AIRCRAFT, SPACE FLIGHT AND MARINE
ENGINEERING. (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME SOVIET EXPERTS
HAVE MENTIONED FIELD OF MARINE DEVELOPMENTS IN EXERCISING
THEIR VIEWS OF INFRA-SONIC WEAPONS. REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY
MAY OR MAY NOT INTEND, INSTALLATION OF SOME ACTIVE ACOUSTIC
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SYSTEMS ON THE SEABED FOR ASW PURPOSES COULD BE PROHIBITED OR PREJUDICED IF ACOUSTIC GENERATORS WERE RECOGNIZED TO BE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, BECAUSE OF THE ALNGUAGE OF ARTUCLE I OF SEABED TREATY.

5. FURTHER ON MICROWAVE REDIATION, SOURIKOV SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS FROM BOTH MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY RESEARCH MUST BE GUARDED AGAINST; THAT HEALTH MORMS APPLICABLE TO SUCH REDIATION MUSB STRICTLY OBSERVED; THAT INDISTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN USES OF MICROWAVES POSED POTENTIAL DANGERS. HE DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN HIGH-POWER REDIATION WHICH CAN PRODUCE THERMAL DAMAGE IN HUMANS AND LOW-POWER (NON-IONIZING) RADIATION WHICH DAMAGES HUMAN BRAIN, ENDOCRINE GLANDS, NERVOUS SYSTEM, HEART RHYTHM.

6. FURHTER ON NEW HEAVY FISSIONABLE ELEMENTS. SOURIKOV ARGUED FOR NEED FOR BAN USE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF ELEMENTS BEYOND U-235 AND PU-239 ON PERIODIC TABLE, BECAUSE THEY WOULD DISPLAY A LOWER CRITICAL MASS AND THEREFORE PROVIDE A BASIS FOR TACTICAL WEAPONS WITH LOWER WEIGHTS FOR A GIVEN YIELD. THIS WULD LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGH ABILITY TO CONVERT CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS TO THEIR USE.

7. FURTHER ON AEROSPACE VEHICLES. SOURIKOV POINTED OUT, USING SPACE SHUTTLE AS CURRENT EXAMPLE, THAT DELIVERY VEHICLES CAN BE PRODUCED COMBINING SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF SPACECRAFT AND AIRCRAFT -- FLYING IN THE ATMOSPHERE AT SPEEDS APPROACHING THOSE OF LONG-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES AND SATELLITES. HE ARGUED THAT SUCH SYSTEMS -- SPACE SHUTTLE IN PARTUCULAR -- COULD BE USED TO CARRY MDW INTO SPACE. HE FURTHER ARGUED THAT AEROSPACE VEHICLES CULD BE USED TO DELIVER MDW TO TARGETS ON SURFACE OF EARTH. (COMMENT: PASCE SHUTTLE HAS BEEN MENTIONED BRIEFLY IN PRIOR CCD DISCUSSIONS OF MDW PROPOSAL; HOWEVER, POTENTIAL APPLICATION DIRECTIONS HAVE NOT. PLACING MDW IN SPACE, WITH SPACE SHUTTLE OR OTHERWISE, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROHIBITED BY ARTICLE IV OF OUTER SPACE TREATY AND REFERENCE TO THIS COULD BE VIEWED AS JUST ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE EXCURSION. HOWEVER, TALK OF USING AEROSPACE VEHICLES (E.G., INTERCONTINENTAL GLIDE MISSILES) FOR DELIVERY OF MDW AGAINST GROUND TARGETS REISES A TOPIC THAT RATHER CLEARLY BELONGS IN SALT, IF ANYWHERE. IN AUGUST 1976, SOVIET CCD REPRESENTATIVE SAID MDW PROPOSAL DID NOT CONTEMPLATE DEALING WITH SYSTEMS COVERED BY SALT AGREEMENT OR NEGOTIATIONS. RAISING AEROSPACE CLASS OF DELIVERY SYSTEMS UNDER HEADING OF PROPOSAL ON NEW MDW, STRICTLY SPEAKING, IS NOT A WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS POSITION SO LONG AS AEROSPACE OR GLIDE VEHICLES ARE NOT ON THE SALT AGENDE.)

8. FURTHER ON FUEL/AIR MUNITIONS. WITH VERY LITTLE EXPLANATION, SOURIKOV ARGUED THAT FUEL/AIR MUNITIONS COULD PRODUCE GREATER POTENTIAL AREAS OF DESTRUCTION THAN THOSE OF EXISTING TYPES OF MDW.

9. POLISH EXPERT (PROFESSOR MALECKI) CITED UN RES AS POLITICAL BASIS FOR TREATY ON NEW MDW. AMONG MDW EXAMPLES HE DISCUSSED WERE INFRA-SOUND, ELECTRONIC BEAMS AND LASERS. WITH RESPECT TO LASERS, HE SAID THAT A LASER BEAM COULD BE MOVED AROUND FROM TARGET TO TARGET THEREBY CAUSING MASS DESTRUCTION. HE PREDICTED THAT THE FUTURE LIES WITH CHEMICAL LASERS WHICH ARE SMALL AND LIGHT AND WHICH ARE ALREADY BEING OPERATED IN THE POWER RANGE OF HUNDREDS OF KW. HE SAID THAT CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR REACTIONS MIGHT PROVIDE THE VAST ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FOR VERY POWERFUL LASERS WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO KNOCK HOLES IN THE TROPOSPHERE, CREATING AN "OZONE WINDOW". HE ALSO NOTED THAT LARGE LASERS MIGHT BE PLACED ON SATELLITES.

10. US EXPERT (BUCHHEIM) STATED THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF REMARKS OF SOVIET EXPERT WAS THAT SOURIKOV HAD STATED THAT

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
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BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE SEPARATE AND APART
FROM NEW MDW AS COMTEMPLATED IN SOVIET PROPOSAL.

11. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) ALSO NOTED WITH
APPRECIATION THAT SOVIET EXPERT HAD EXCLUDED CW AND BW
FROM MDW. HE ASID THAT, IN HIS OPINION, WEAPONS MADE FROM
NEW TYPES OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS WOULD STILL BE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, AND COULD BE BEST PRVEENTED BY A CTB WHICH WOULD
MOT PERMIT DEVELOPMENT TESTS.

12. UK EXPERT (GARNETT) MADE EXTENSIVE STATEMENT WHICH
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INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS;

A. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CANNOT BE HALTED AND, IN CERTAIN
FIELDS, PARTICULARLY CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY AND PHYSICS, SOME OF
THE REAEARCH WILL HAVE MILITARY IMPLICATINS WHICH MAY NOT
BE RECOGNIZED WHILC THE WORK IS IN PROGRESS.

B. NO GENERAL DEFINITION OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
IS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, A POSSIBLE DEFINITION MIGHT BE
CONSTRUCTED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE

1. "A NEW WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION IS A WEAPON NOT
AT PRESENT IN THE ARSENALS OF ANY STATE WHICH MIGHT BE
DEVELOPED EITHER ON THE BASIS OF ESTABLISHED SCIENTIFIC
PRINCIPLES WHICH, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, HAVE
NOT YET BEEN APPLIED TO WEAPONRY, OR AS A RESULT OF NEW
SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES WHICH MAY EMERGE IN THE FUTURE.

2. A WEAPON MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED "NEW" IF THE TARGET
FOR ITS ATTACK, WHETHER ANATOMICAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL, HAS
NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXPLOITED BY EXISTING WEAPONS.

3. SUCH WEAPONS ARE BY THEIR VERY NATURE INDISCRIMINATE
IN THE SENCs THAT THEIR DESTRUCTIVE POWER AFFECTS
ENTIRE POPULATIONS AND DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN
SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO HARM OR KILL
PEOPLE IN LARGE NUMBERS AND/OR TO DAMAGE OR DESTROY THE
ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY LIVE. END QUOTE

C. THE MOST PROMISING WAY OF PROCEEDING IS TO DRAW UP
A SPECIFIC LIST OF NEW MDW, THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHICH WE WOULD
LIKE TO PROHIBIT.

13. UK EXPERT SUGGESTED THAT SYSTEMATIC SCANNING OF THE
ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS MAY
PROVIDE POINTERS TO THOSE AREAS OF RESEARCH WHICH MAY LEAD
TO NEW MDW.

14. INDIAN REP (JAIN) WENT THROUGH A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS
OF VARIOUS TYPES OF CURRENT WEAPONS THAT ARE CONSIDERED TO
BE MDW, NOTING THAT RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CAUSING DAMAGE BY
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RADIOLOGICAL EFFECTS IN THE ABSENCE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED UNDER MDW. HE NOTED THAT CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS, DEPENDING ON THEIR USE, COULD CAUSE MASS DESTRUCTION,
CITING WORLD WAR II CARPET BOMBING". HE ADDED THAT WHILE
CONSIDERING PROHIBITION OF NEW MDW, WE SHOULD NOT CONFUSE
THIS EFFORT WITH MISUSE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

15. NEXT INFORMAL MEETING ON MDW SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 15. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Message ID: 4a38f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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